

The Herald and News

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Oil Week

By BILL JENKINS
This week has been designated as Oil Progress Week across the nation. There are so many of these so-called weeks during the year that they tend to become confusing. But this one seems to have some point in view of the fact that the industry as a whole is taking a week to pay tribute to the thousands and thousands of service station operators across the nation.

And that is a sentiment with which I can go along wholeheartedly. It would be a pretty tough world to live in if it weren't for the friendly and courteous fellow at your favorite station. I suppose that most of us are prone to take them for granted, but they certainly perform a multitude of services without which our daily lives would be greatly complicated.

If everyone else is as stupid about the mechanical end of an automobile as I am, I'm sure they will join me in a wholehearted thank-you to the station operator who sees to it that my car is properly lubricated, kept filled with the correct grade of oil and checks mileage, tires and gas levels periodically when I drop the car in at his parking lot. Without that service I'm quite sure I'd be afloat in a matter of days.

There is another side to this service station business to be considered, too. I think they not only offer service to the driving public in the form of selling them the necessary gas, oil and accessories, but they are the communities' first ambassadors of good will where tourists and visitors are concerned. Quite frequently, in fact, the service station operator is the only local contact a visiting tourist may have.

From him he learns the necessary directions, but he also carries away with him an impression of the town as formed in his mind by his contact with that operator. I think that I can safely say that on the average these operators are not only helpful and courteous but do a splendid job of public relations for their community.

I, for one, am quite happy to join in the oil industry at large in congratulating the operators on the fine job that they're doing. I think they've earned a good deal of praise.

Last week I noticed a news item to the effect that Dick Neuberger, Oregon's junior senator, has been named a director of the National Humane Society. I wonder if this is because of his kindness to squirrels and his determination to see to it that their Washington, D.C. homes are kept up to the properly plush standard.

Down here at the tail end of this piece I might offer one small piece of advice. As in all election years, the letters-to-the-editor mail increases in volume. It is a pretty commonly mistaken idea that if a person writes a letter to a newspaper, signs his correct name and address to it, he can then go ahead and make all the libelous statements that he wishes without involving the newspaper.

Sources

By KEN McLEOD
The fundamental source for all human ideas especially of the nature of things and what we should do about it all rests upon the opinions of ancient worthies, dead these thousands and two thousand and three thousand years. Their opinions in turn rest not a little on the kind of country over which wandered long-departed flocks, and the soil of ancient river-beds where men first planted crops. In particular our theological and our scientific ideas, come largely either out of ancient Greece or ancient Israel. Greece and Israel, in turn, lean on Egypt and Babylonia. What, therefore, the east end of the Mediterranean thought during the last thousand years of pre-Christian time, colors deeply what we think and do today.

The thoughts of Greece and Israel and Egypt and Babylonia are strongly colored by what the people saw. Therefore the fact that Egypt and Babylonia are dry countries on a flood-plain, and Greece and Israel with rugged slopes—along with other characteristics of both—affect profoundly the course of European thinking through more than two millenniums, and determine, much more than we realize or admit, certain important notions that men now hold.

The source region out of which our present-day civilization was drawn came from that long-civilized Mediterranean area reaching from the Pillars of Hercules eastward to Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf, southward to the limits of Upper Egypt, and northward as far into the Alps and beyond them as our fathers, after the spirit, had enterprise or curiosity to go. That region is for us the ancient world. What there is in it, our forebears saw. What they saw, they thought about. What they thought, they passed along to us. Just that. In large measure, what we think now.

What we must not forget—prone as we are to do so—that these fathers of ours of a thousand years or so before our era began, were men like ourselves, equally intelligent, equally ingenious, equally curious. But they did not, nor the most part, have books to read, nor most of our ways of killing time; and they did not have any sort of artificial light that gave them much chance at either work or play after dusk. Therefore, one guessed — to avoid being bored, they dived on the whole more thinking than we do now; and they thought much about the stars and the rocks.

The Babylonians went in especially for astronomy, for they had a dry climate, a free horizon, and a clear sky. They gave us much of our magic and most of our astrology, the 360 degrees of the circle and the 60 minutes of the hour, the signs of the zodiac, our week of seven days (after the seven planets)—which we, however, call mostly by their Roman names.

But the Babylonians did not geologize. "Syria of the Rivers," the Hebrew called it. The country is a great flood plain of the Tigris-Euphrates rivers, a flat country, a quarter-thousand miles wide, where the river silt has buried far out of sight and mind all the hard and interesting rocks. There is no getting up geology out of a mud flat—that takes mountains.

To be sure, there are high mountains upstream from Babylon—Ararat where the Ark stranded, and the "Mountain of the North" behind which the sun hid himself by night and on whose top was one of the various locations of the Garden of Eden. However, the Babylonians were a race of "Babbitts," who dwell in cities and did business, oppressed weaker peoples, and cultivated the more sedentary sciences with some measure of brilliance. They did not go to and fro in the earth, sailing and exploring and climbing mountains. Therefore, the Babylonians had no geology.

Therefore, likewise, the Hebrews had no geology. The Hebrew not having a head for natural science borrowed all his science and most of it from the east. No Israelite seems to have noticed the stratified rocks of the mountains about Jerusalem. The Old Testament abounds in astronomical lore but has no hint of any earth-science. There is no geology in the Old Testament for the same reason that Nineveh was builded of brick instead of marble. Thus the earth beneath man's feet shapes the course of thoughts and actions. Compare Nineveh with Athens, each great city grew up on the abundance of nature where life was easy to live.

Picture, therefore, Israel of the Exile, seated by the waters of Babylon, hanging its harps upon the willows, waiting for a lost Jerusalem; but when it had a chance to go home, promptly, for the most part, forgetting Zion and staying in comfort where it was. The remnant that did return, rigidly selected for religion, brought back for science only what was known in Babylon. It had its vision of the changeless stars that circle the sky without haste and without rest, and an Ancient of Days who created the stars in the beginning, who also does not change. That is what men of genius in the field of religion learn in a flat country with a clear sky, where nothing alters and nothing is especially varied or interesting. So the Jews brought back from Babylon the beginnings of three leading religions of the world to come, colored with the hue of the desert.

Kitchener

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK — Odd facts a columnist might never know if he didn't read his mail (or eavesdrop).
That Lord Kitchener, one of Britain's greatest soldiers, had a lifelong fear of cats.
That the average baby is 20 inches long at birth... but if the stork short-changed you there isn't much you can do about it.
That your child's fingernails grow faster than your own.

That in this envious world not 1 out of 100 persons can name a word to describe the feeling of pleasure you get out of another person's happiness. (Actually, there are two such words—Concubinity and Macarism—but neither is listed in my collegiate dictionary.)

That anyone who writes a suicide note in which he tells how he wants his property divided is more likely to really kill himself than one who pens a farewell note which makes no mention of what he'd like done with his possessions. (The second guy really hasn't made up his mind to let go.)
That anyone who threatens suicide is capable of it, but few who say they are afraid they will commit suicide actually do.

That many women fear developing cervical cancer during pregnancy, but only 1 in 7,000 does... and the rate is even lower among women under 30.

That among the 250 new varieties of fruit developed by Luther Burbank, the "plant wizard," were a white blackberry and a plum that tasted like a pear.
That 300,000 naturalized Americans will be able for the first time to vote for President Nov. 6. And it's a safe bet that a higher percentage will go to the polls than among our native-born citizens, who inherited freedom.)

That Theodore Roosevelt was the only President who ever offered the "Teddy Bear," of which 150 million have been sold.
That tuberculosis, far from being conquered, still kills more people than all other infectious diseases combined.

That to determine the average height of a child between 4 and 12, doctors often use this formula: multiply the age by 2½ and add 30. Thus a 10-year-old, if average, will be 55 inches tall. A child of 12 averages 60 inches—5 feet.

That (now don't tell me you know this!) fish are born as naked as jaybirds. They don't develop scales until after birth.
That Canada geese don't fly in their familiar V-shape formation to ape the Air Force but to cut down wind resistance. They average 50 miles an hour on nonstop flights of hundreds of miles.

That among the few things a nickel will buy is a trip from Europe to Asia. But first you have to get to Istanbul, Turkey, where a brief ferry ride across the Bosphorus (then you're in Asia) costs only five cents.

That Artemus Ward, humorist of an earlier American generation, summed up the present day attitude pretty well when he observed, "Let us all be happy and live within our means—even if we have to borrow the money to do it with."

Markets

By SAM DAWSON
NEW YORK — American businessmen today are watching a new attempt to reshuffle world markets. They've felt the rise of Japanese and German competition and sighted the threat of Russian inroads.

Now the British suddenly have stopped dragging their feet on the long dreamed of plan to set up a Western European economic union. Its aim: to do battle in the market place as a "third force" between the economic and military giants, the United States and Russia.

Some sceptics, doubting that long-embattled Europe can never get together on any unity plan, see the sudden upsurge of British interest in setting up a Pan-European bloc as due to rising anti-Americanism and to the smart of hurt pride over the Suez Canal stalemate.

Beyond these emotional motives however, lie economic ones. The proposed European union offers a large and tempting market to English goods, protected by a common tariff barrier against American competition.

Washington is aware of this and is asking the meeting in Geneva of GATT—the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—to see that the proposed customs union of six continental nations, with which Britain could be joined through a free trade area, doesn't hurt seriously the American export markets in Europe.

By becoming one big happy family, so the argument goes, the Western Europeans may all grow fat. Separately, they'll be crushed one by one—first economically and then militarily—between the United States and Russia.

The plan the British are talking about works like this: West Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Luxembourg would form a customs union without tariff barriers among themselves. Goods would move as freely across the borders as they do, say, between Ohio and Indiana. But there would be one tariff barrier in common against the goods of all other nations.

The customs union would then be joined in a free trade area by England and perhaps by the Scandinavian countries and in time even Spain.

England would exclude from the compact the agricultural products of the British Commonwealth. Otherwise all products would move freely within the free trade area.

Immediate stumbling blocks to the plan, as seen here, are: 1. The too-high price level in France and the wage inflation in England which might make French and British manufacturers fear the surging industrial comeback in Western Germany; 2. Opposition by U.S., Japanese, and Soviet bloc governments if the custom union appears too isolationist.

Puzzles

By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press News Analyst
WASHINGTON — One of the campaign puzzles is how much political Adlai Stevenson is making with his repeated speeches on ending H-bomb tests.

He seems to think he's found a major campaign issue here. He arranged to talk about it again tonight in a nationwide television speech.

He's intensely interested himself. What isn't known is how many voters are interested. Stevenson is said to be convinced, on the basis of crowd reaction, that the subject is one that voters are vitally concerned about.

If it has little voter interest, then Stevenson is using up a lot of valuable campaign time that could be devoted to issues which concern voters more immediately than an H-bomb explosion in the Pacific.

Only a handful of people in the

United States have enough information on the H-bomb to form an intelligent opinion on whether the tests should be ended with or without prior Russian agreement to do the same.

That handful is composed of nuclear scientists, a few military leaders, and key civilians in the Eisenhower administration.

President Eisenhower, after saying several times the tests must be continued for national defense reasons, reached a point last week where he said he will not discuss it any more.

But he has never told the public the full story, he said, for reasons of national security; too much secret information is involved.

Thus shut out from a full knowledge of the problem, the voters cannot reach an informed opinion on the rightness or wrongness of Eisenhower or Stevenson.

The most they can do is choose up sides for political or emotional reasons.

In this argument Eisenhower, by invoking secrecy, has in effect asked the public to trust him when he says he's right and Stevenson is wrong.

Ten days ago, before promising to say no more on the bomb tests, Eisenhower issued an explanatory statement from the White House.

In it he emphasized he was not talking — when he said the tests must go on — as a political candidate but as president and therefore as the one most responsible for national safety.

He did it in this one sentence after saying government leaders make their decisions on what is necessary for national defense.

"This specific matter (the H-bomb) is manifestly not a subject for detailed public discussion — for obvious security reasons."

With that he pulled down the curtain on full public knowledge and asked the voters to believe that he was in a better position than Stevenson to know what is needed.

Debate

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.
Whether there is a true shortage of physicians in North America, or merely an imperfect distribution, is a subject for heated debate.

Whatever the answer, it is a sure thing that the proportion of physicians to patients is higher here than in the rest of the world. Nevertheless, some communities, particularly small towns and rural areas, have difficulty in attracting the physicians they want and keeping them there.

Several organizations and individuals, including the outstanding Virginia Council on Health and Medical Care, are working on this problem.

Why some communities have trouble getting a physician has been brought out by attempts to solve the question. As is so often true, there are two sides to the story.

First, the members of a community which needs a physician should ask themselves whether theirs is a good place for a doctor to live and raise his family. What can it do to attract and keep the kind of doctor it wants?

How does this stack up? Can the physician and his family find a house in which to live comfortably and at reasonable cost? Is the office up to the standards of modern-day practice? Are the schools satisfactory for the children? If they are not, how can they be good enough for the children already there?

Can a new doctor earn enough from the community to live on? Do the patients in the area pay their medical bills reasonably promptly? The physician is expected to pay his to the grocer, the plumber and the electrician without too long delay.

Do the residents of the community realize that the doctor must have some time off for study and vacation? Are the members of a community reasonably thoughtful about house calls and night calls when a daytime visit to the office would do just as well?

Last, but not least, the question of unpleasant gossip about the physician and his family may, and sometimes does, make it impossible for a good man to stay. I suppose there is no member of a community—other than a minister perhaps—who is so susceptible to the evil effects of gossip and about whom everyone likes to gossip more.

As I suppose everyone knows, the advance in medical knowledge has made it increasingly difficult for any one physician to keep up with everything. This has meant an increase in specialization and pooling of medical knowledge in the care of the patient. For this reason, some well-trained men hesitate to go to communities which need them if they may be isolated from their medical colleagues.

The physician who settles in a community which badly needs him also has heavy responsibilities and duties. He must be on call for all kinds of emergencies and cannot regulate his hours on a 9-5 schedule. He should realize that some of the problems which he may face—including gossip—are not really as unkind as they may seem.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

DOC DRILLER LETS HIS PATIENTS KNOW THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE...
WELL, THE ONLY TIME I CAN FIT YOU IN IS 3:30 TOMORROW. I CAN GIVE YOU EXACTLY ONE HALF-HOUR—I MUST ASK YOU TO BE PROMPT... UNTIL 3:30, THEN...

BUT GET IN HIS CHAIR AT THE APPOINTED TIME, AND YOUR TIME IS EVERYBODY ELSE'S...
NO!! WRONG COLOR!! DO IT OVER, MEATHEAD! HELLO, MRS. POPPIROLE! NO, I DIDN'T MEAN YOU! WHATS THAT? YES-I'M AFRAID LITTLE LOOPER'S TEETH DO NEED BRACES—YES-UH-UH—YES...
DOCTOR... MRS. GUMBOYLE IS ON THE OTHER PHONE... SHE SNEEZED OUT THE CAR WINDOW AND LOST HER PLATE...
HI, DOC... THE NEW DRILLS YOU WANTED TO SEE—I GOT JUST A FEW MINUTES BETWEEN PLANES...
THANK TO GEO. KLOEK, 403 HAWTHORN AVE., WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.



Hard Beds Seen On Russian Tour

NEW YORK — "Russia is not sleeping properly," says a mattress company executive just back from the Soviet Union.

John W. Hubbell said on his return that a thin, cotton-filled mattress used on many Russian beds is at fault.

He said he paid 170 rubles—

about \$42.50—for one of the Russian mattresses.

"If this were put on a special sale here in a department store for \$5," Hubbell said, "they wouldn't sell any."

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